



Billing Code: FR-4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[Docket No. FD 35724]

California High-Speed Rail Authority—Construction Exemption—in Merced, Madera and Fresno Counties, Cal.

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice of construction exemption.

SUMMARY: The Board is granting an exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10901 for the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) to construct an approximately 65-mile high-speed passenger rail line between Merced and Fresno, California (the Project). The Project would be the first section of the statewide California High-Speed Train System. This exemption is subject to environmental mitigation conditions and the condition that the Authority build the route designated as environmentally preferable.

DATES: The exemption will be effective on June 28, 2013; petitions to reopen must be filed by July 3, 2013.

ADDRESSES: An original and ten copies of all pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 35724, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, one copy of each filing in this proceeding must be served on the Authority's representative: Linda J. Morgan, Nossaman LLP, 1666 K Street, N.W., Suite 500, Washington, DC 20006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scott M. Zimmerman, (202) 245-0386.

[Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at: 1-800-877-8339].

Copies of written filings will be available for viewing and self-copying at the Board's Public Docket Room, Room 131, and will be posted to the Board's website.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: Additional information is contained in the Board's decision. Board decisions and notices are available on our website at "WWW.STB.DOT.GOV."

Decided: June 13, 2013.

By the Board, Chairman Elliott, Vice Chairman Begeman, and Commissioner Mulvey. Vice Chairman Begeman concurred in part and dissented in part with a separate expression. Commissioner Mulvey concurred with a separate expression.

Jeffrey Herzig

Clearance Clerk

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